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VENEZUELA EX-PRESIDENT SEEKS ASYLUM IN COLOMBIA

Venezuelan FM Davila announced that Pedro Carmona, who had been under house arrest, had entered the Colombian Embassy in Caracas and asked for political asylum, report the media. Carmona's escape came a day after a court in Caracas ordered him to be transferred to a jail. It was unclear how Carmona evaded the police and entered the Colombian Embassy, comments the desk. Earlier false media reports stated that Carmona had left the country or was at the U.S. Embassy, comments the Embassy.

(Watch/Embassy Caracas telcon, Watch/Venezuela desk telcon, bbc.co.uk, Reuters)

BOMB EXPLODES IN SOUTHERN TEL AVIV

A Tel Aviv police spokesperson said the explosion was caused when a suicide bomber tried to enter a disco and was stopped by security guards, report the media. The suicide bomber died and four persons were injured. No AmCits were injured in the explosion, reports the Embassy.

(Watch/Embassy Tel Aviv telcon, AP)

CAR BOMB EXPLODES IN PAMPLONA SPAIN

Basque separatists were blamed for an explosion on a university campus, injuring two people, report the media. The attack was unusual because it took place on a university campus, traditionally a stronghold of the ETA, comments the desk. *(Watch/Spain desk telcon, Reuters)*

ARGENTINA DENIES DUHALDE RESIGNATION THREAT

The GOA repudiated reports that the President threatened to resign unless his political allies supported reforms demanded by the IMF, confirms the desk. The reports of Duhalde's threat to resign were part of his strategy to put pressure on the opposition.

(Watch/Argentina desk telcon, bbc.co.uk, Reuters)

GERMAN FM FISCHER MAY SEEK TO REPLACE SOLANA

FM Fischer said if Solana's position was offered to him, he would seriously consider taking over as foreign policy chief of the European Union, report the media. *(Reuters)*

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